

**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

2:00pm, Tuesday, September 14, 2021

The meeting took place at the Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo, Pueblo CO. The option to watch via an online video link was available by contacting Rose Jubert at 719-562-5633 or rose.jubert@pueblolibrary.org

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Quintana called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and conducted roll call.

Board Members Present: Fredrick Quintana, President
Dustin Hodge, Vice President
Marlene Bregar
Lyndell Gairaud
Doreen Martinez
Stephanie Garcia

Board Members Not Present: Phil Mancha

Attorney Not Present: Bart Miller

Staff & Guests Present: Jon Walker, Executive Director
Sherri Baca, Associate Executive Director
Terri Daly, Director of Human Resources
Nick Potter, Director of Community Relations and Development

II. CORRECTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Members of the Board of Trustees or the Executive Director may suggest corrections or modifications to the agenda at this time.

There were no corrections or modifications to the agenda.

III. Discussion Items

1. InfoZone Museum

OVERVIEW: Nick Potter (Director, Community Relations and Development) reviewed planning for the updated InfoZone museum inside the renovated Rawlings Library.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana introduced Mr. Potter.

Nick Potter – Nick Potter presented on the update to the InfoZone Museum. He reported that there had been quite a few meetings and he was working to narrow down the content to make sure that it fits into the new space and the overall design. He said that as they narrow down on what the overall space would look like there was still time to change content and features within the exhibit.

He began his presentation and said that work had been going on for about a year and a half. He reported that the renovation of the Rawlings library dramatically changed the first floor and the Youth Services Department, where the new InfoZone would be located. He shared that the walk way through the newly renovated area was indeed a museum space but was also a destination point for people to get to meeting rooms, the makerspace room and a training room. He shared that by placing the museum in this location on the first floor it would provide more traffic to the area. The space directly across from the InfoZone walk way and adjacent to the reflecting pond would be the café space. People who are either visiting to utilize the library or who are there for a meeting or conference would frequent this area. Moving the museum from the fourth floor to the first floor would provide more prominence and foot traffic so for that reason extra care would be taken to make sure that people's attention would be grabbed.

Mr. Potter reported that when the first phase/first floor of the Rawlings renovation is completed PCCLD would be left with a "plain vanilla box" which would provide a blank canvas ready to be designed. He said in building this area they paid close attention to not making it a cluttered space in order to allow people to easily walk through without bumping into one another.

He pointed out to the right of the space would be an exhibit that would house the newspaper and print media. Across from this exhibit on the wall would be a display of early communication pieces. In the center would be an island used as a center for new media exhibit. Located on the walls towards the back of the area would be graphic decals that would provide content of overall media history.

He shared that the one thing his group had discussed was how the museum would be the chronical of the human record or the history of human communication. As a person entered the museum and started on the left hand wall and proceeded clockwise around the room a story would be told in loose chronological order. A person could also go from one exhibit to another and it would not feel jarring or strange in any way.

He reported that when entering the exhibit, the left hand area would showcase early forms of communication such as Native American rock art such as petroglyphs and pictographs, word-of-mouth would include speeches and proclamations and also handwritten materials. The next area, the island, would showcase a featured exhibit that would be periodically changed out. This would allow the exhibit to stay timely and would fit in with the overall museum theme. On the walls you would encounter the large, colorful decals with media history.

Mr. Potter shared that one of the things they wanted to ensure was that the area was balanced and it showcased the overall history of media such as newspapers, radio and television this would include local pieces. This space would give a rich history of Pueblo's newspapers, radio and television and would remain fresh for people to enjoy. He showed an example of the wall graphics and explained the reason for showcasing the area in this manner was to keep it open and airy but still provide content that would be visually appealing. This space would allow people to congregate and not feel crowded.

He reviewed the set up showing a 3-D version of the space. He commented on how the space would have a lot of color and visual appeal. It would have graphic and eye catching pieces. The title of the museum had not been decided yet but the sign would be placed near the newspaper and print media display. This piece would be very eye-catching so when a person was sitting having their coffee they could enjoy this very visually appealing space.

Mr. Potter reviewed the Early Communication Exhibit in more detail. He said that the panel would highlight the early forms of communication. He shared that the panels would be constructed in age appropriate titles, the bottom would showcase more hands-on features which would be of more interest to children. As you proceeded up the panel the features would include more text and less pictures. He said that they would be grading the features in the panels based on age appropriateness at each height level.

Mr. Potter asked that the Trustees ask questions and he let them know that it was not just him making the decisions for this area, there was an internal committee comprised of Aaron Ramirez and the Special Collections department, as well as Amy Nelson the Rawlings Branch manager. In addition to the internal group they are working with a museum design company out of Kansas who actually made the previous Robert Hoag Rawlings exhibit at the library, they were Flint Hills Design. Mr. Potter said that he was also working with the CSU-Pueblo's Mass Communications Department and Reagan Foster, who was a professor in that department. These people would be the content experts that would help to flesh out the pieces. He said they would be the authority figures when talks of the history of all of the pieces of communication and local history started. When talks of rock art start, Picket Wire Canyon would be discussed and how the communication within the indigenous tribes of that area used pictographs and petroglyphs to communicate. He stated that the one thing that they were trying to make very important in the exhibit was to ensure that diversity was represented. He shared that as you do a brief outline of the different forms of mass communication it definitely becomes very white, very affluent. There are a lot of other stories to be told and he aimed to include these stories in the exhibits.

Mr. Potter spoke about word of mouth and handwritten messages that would be part of the exhibit. This area would feature items within the libraries Special Collections department. He shared that the Chicano activism and rallies that were held in the local communities were a great example of word-of-mouth communication. He also said that the El Pueblo Trading Post was a great example of how people in the American West communicated back in that era. He shared that Special Collections had in its possession a handwritten speech from Governor Alva Adams and what was proposed was to have a kind of interactive where you could press a button and an actor would read a portion of that speech. The library also housed the pen used by President John F. Kennedy to sign the Frying Pan Arkansas agreement and that could be another demonstration of the handwritten form of communication.

Mr. Potter spoke about the large panel display, A Matter of Perspective Exhibit. This area would supplement the graphics on the wall that would showcase the newspaper, radio and television forms of communication. This display would have both radio and television components as well information on the internet. This area would have news sources about stories that are prevalent, examples would be a political election, a war, or some type of conflicting story. The exhibit would show how these stories were covered differently in different regions. He gave the example of a political election and how a blue state and a red state would cover the election versus a foreign country and looking at the biases. The other side of the panel would show the history of the Internet and it would teach people how to be responsible digital consumers and how to discern fake news from real news and fact from fiction.

He also shared that the back panels would also showcase radio and television and have a local flare. In addition to talking about the broader history of radio, this exhibit would feature some of Pueblo's notable DJs almost in the fashion the Newsies were featured in the previous InfoZone display. Another idea would be to feature the Jingle Bell Rock and its history in Pueblo and its innovation as a way to boost listeners.

Mr. Potter spoke about the history of television and how it would be featured in the display. He shared that the Special Collections department had archived KOAA reels from the 1960's and 1970's that could demonstrate the local news industry as well as the Damon Runyon made-for-television program that was filmed in Pueblo in the late 1970's. These examples would give a local flair and make the exhibit a bit more engaging rather than just showing the overall history. Focus would be on age levels and trying to make sure that the area was appropriate for everyone going through the exhibit.

The print area would involve the use of the linotype that was used in the previous exhibit in addition to the artistic roller panels. People would be able to build their own mad lib or sentence and then use either crayon or graphite and rub it onto a piece of paper that would be provided and be able take home a memento of the early print industry. Railing would be installed to protect the linotype.

Mr. Potter shared that within Pueblo a number of newspapers existed before, during and after the Pueblo Chieftain, some in different languages some for different ethnic groups and even neighborhoods. The newspapers would be featured as a kind of tapestry made up of all of the newspaper's headlines and front pages. These items would be numbered and a legend provided to explain what the visitor was looking at. This "tapestry" would be placed on rollers so a visitor could hand crank it and mimic the old press rollers.

The Feature Column Exhibit would ensure that all of the space in the area was utilized. Located on the display would be plexiglass rollers. He shared that a possible feature on these rollers would be the Kit Carson will. Multiple pages of the would be highlighted to show what he bequeathed to his family and business partners. Mr. Potter shared that during this time it was a privilege to be able to read and write as a form of personal communication. The panels would be replaceable and have the ability to be switched out. On the exhibit there would be a screen that would give the viewer the ability to go into more depth about the document they were looking at.

Mr. Potter concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana said that it all looked really exciting! He asked about the panels and their replacement or change out costs if any. Mr. Potter pointed out the black frames on the displays and said that those would be digital panels that he would have on a computer. He referenced them as a plexiglass sandwich

with a paper in between. When it's time to change them out they could be unscrewed and the paper replaced.

Mr. Quintana asked about another display towards the back of the exhibit and if it would be handled the same way? Mr. Potter explained that this would be more of a permanent display but if they started to peel or if they were vandalized they could be reprinted.

Marlene Bregar – Ms. Bregar said that she liked the idea of the displays that had short things accessible to kids and taller things for adults. She said that she didn't have a good sense of how accessible the tall information would be to an adult in a wheelchair. She wanted to make sure that wheelchair bound patrons didn't only have accessibility to simple pictures and language. She asked if there could be tablets made available to access the information so they wouldn't have to strain to look at the information or need to have someone read them the information? Mr. Potter said that was a concern his group had and they thought about incorporating QR codes so a patron could access the information on a tablet or on their personal cell phone. It would also be easy to add an audio QR code where a person could interpret the panels for a person. The had even spoke about scanning the entire exhibit and a person would be able to check it out.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana said that it was great to see everything come to fruition and thanks everyone for working so hard on this.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker added that some of the Trustees may recall that the Rawlings Family Foundation had promised to be the principle funder of this project over time. The shell that Mr. Potter had shown in the earlier slides of his presentation was the libraries cost through other means, but everything inside of the shell that Mr. Potter had shown had been funded by the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation. Mr. Walker was pleased that the library could continue that relationship. He was also pleased that it was moving away from a newspaper focus and it was more about how information goes from person to people or people to person in different formats. He felt that from a library perspective that it was true to who we were as a library, being sort of a retainer of information in different formats. He appreciated the Foundation's flexibility and thanked Mr. Potter for all of his work.

2. Facemask Policy

OVERVIEW: Jon Walker (Executive Director) reported on PCCLD's facemask policy.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana reminded the Board that at their last meeting there was a conversation that came up in regard to the need for implementing face mask precautions, and the question of creating and turning this into library policy came up. Mr. Walker and his team came up with a policy that was reviewed.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker presented the proposed policy to the Board. He shared with the Board that Covid in the Pueblo community continued to trend in the wrong direction. He had shared with the Board the information that was reported from Randy Evetts, Public Health Director and Dr. Urbina from the Pueblo Health Department that was made at their board meeting presentation last night. Mr. Walker shared that there were a lot of different data sources with regard to Covid but he received his primary guidance from the health authorities to include the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the National CDC and FDA like resources.

He reported that Pueblo was in a high state of transmission, this was the reason for the masking and distancing changes. In the summer months Pueblo was in a low state of transmission but that had since changed. The current numbers showed that Covid continued to skyrocket upward in both Pueblo and the entire state. He said that the health authorities also looked at the hospitalization rates because one of their primary concerns was to ensure hospitals and health systems don't become overwhelmed. Locally, Parkview was now at 46 inpatient Covid patients and they were in the red zone. This had forced them to make choices about what sort of health care they could provide at the critical level because they were caring for so many with Covid. It was not a good picture and that translated to the library to try to create an environment that's as healthy and safe as possible.

He said that the good news from the director and the doctor at last night's meeting was that they continued to vouch for the vaccine and its effectiveness. They cited figures of 75 to 80 percent in terms of protection against symptomatic disease and 90% in terms of protecting against hospitalizations. Mr. Walker said that the peak in

transmission would subside at some point down the road and all of the experts seem to be saying that as well but we were not in that place today. As a result of this, PCCLD put in the masking policy for staff last month and for the public on September 1st. He presented a rendition of the policy to the Board and said that it would apply to all individuals two years or older, face covering over the nose and mouth while they were inside of the library. Courtesy masks had been provided at the front doors along with security guards. PCCLD would stop providing security guards on September 15th at the request of the Giodone and Greenhorn Valley branches, the managers at these branches felt they had a good handle on it and they didn't need the additional help. He said that would be monitored and if needed the guards would be reinstated. The attendance would continue at the doors through September 30th, they would provide face coverings and interact with the public. PCCLD did go through a lot of masks because the public wasn't prepared for the masking requirement, this was under control now. Most of the people who go to the libraries tend to be repeat customers so it had become a sort of a standard operating procedure to wear a mask. He reported that there had been some pushback but generally speaking the libraries were in a good place with it. He shared that the libraries had been doing it in consistency with ADA. The accommodations had been put into place earlier in the pandemic and all a person with a disability had to do was to claim it and staff would accommodate them.

The purpose of the policy had to do with the high number of positive Covid-19 cases currently in Pueblo County and PCCLD trying to maintain a safe and healthy environment for both the staff and the public. He said that the policy was his take on the discussion that was had at the last Board meeting. He asked that the Board review the policy, at least for now, on a regular basis/once a month and then make a determination on how to proceed at that point.

Mr. Walker said that he was hopeful and believed that we would be past this peak and we would get to some sort of community immunity. He requested that the Board would consider adopting this as a temporary policy or adopting it as a policy and reviewing it on a monthly basis at their next meeting.

Mr. Quintana opened up the meeting to the Board for discussion.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana wanted to make sure that Mr. Walker and his team were allowed to initiate or retract the need for a mask. He felt that the policy should indicate that PCCLD was working with or relying on information from PDPHE, CDC and other organizations. He said that those were the objectives the Board was looking at when they considered the masking policy. Ultimately he wanted the policy to be useful to Mr. Walker and he be able to make a decision with his team and then essentially be ratified by the Board.

Marlene Bregar – Ms. Bregar said the policy should include something that would indicate that the designee and/or their team could initiate/modify the policy. She felt that it was important once the policy was put into place that the Board would review it until such time it was rescinded. She also added that it could then be re-initiated if it's merited without the Board having to act. Basically it would give Mr. Walker and his team the ability to start and stop the policy without a special Board meeting. Mr. Quintana agreed and voiced that he did not want anything to be held up.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker said that he could use verbiage from other Library policies if needed. He reiterated what Mr. Quintana and Ms. Bregar had said and stated that the policy would read as follows; the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to modify the policy relying on guidance from PDPHE, CDPHE and/or CDC and inform the Board of Trustees at their next meeting for further direction, or something to this effect.

Stephanie Garcia – Ms. Garcia shared that in terms of the Department of Health and Environment they had not initiated a policy for mask mandates outside of schools. She said that she could see people going to the Board and arguing that the Library's policy was not a public health policy. She felt the wording should reflect data and numbers and not just lean on the Department of Health and Environment.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker said that was a good point and that he could use the data from the CDC since they had a specific definition of transmission and it was tied to numbers in terms of the rate of transmission per 100,000 in the community, they put this information into categories. Pueblo was currently in the highest category. He said that he could state that the Executive Director was authorized to review and act on this, at such time, that the CDC's rating goes down to substantial. CDC's guidance was that all public indoor places

that were at substantial or high should be masking up. He felt that PCCLD should use some discretion and have some flexibility for discretion. He agreed with Ms. Garcia and said that PDPHE had not mandated however they had provided guidance and their guidance was to mask up in all public indoor places. That was why in his base policy he used the words guidance instead of mandate. He said that if CDC and PDPHE mandate the masking policy then it had the authority of law so that was why at this time he would use the word guidance and then “hang his hat” on the CDC definition of transmission.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana said that what he heard from Ms. Garcia was she thought the Board should rely on data from the above mentioned organizations. This would be so that the opinion could be derived by the Board rather than waiting on a mandate. The Board did not want to wait on a mandate, they wanted to rely on their own interpretation of the data that those scientific organizations were providing.

Stephanie Garcia – Ms. Garcia said that she just wanted the Board to be prepared to defend the library’s policy and she didn’t think the Board needed to wait for a mandate to initiate the policy. She expected that the Board was going to have to defend it.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker agreed with Ms. Garcia and said that this issue had already come up. He said that when the policy had gone out internally some staff had misinterpreted the policy to read that PDPHE had mandated the use of masks in the libraries. Internal clarification was made that PCCLD was just following the guidance of PDPHE. He said that it was quickly clarified. The policy wasn’t challenged it was misinterpreted.

He said that there was a lot of Covid related information that was made public, some of it untrue, but he always relied on the three public health authorities, the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control for guidance. If they would all mandate the use of masks, then PCCLD would follow.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana felt that if there was a masking mandate it would be good for PCCLD to follow any mandates from state and local governments. He said that he thought it was important on a defense level that the Board made decisions based on the data and guidelines provided by the public health authorities just to keep it objective rather than subjective. When or if the Board, Executive Director and team have those types of conversations with people in the community they are truly acting as a community partner based on the data not out of fear as some people may say. They can respond by saying that PCCLD was looking out for the community, their neighbors and friends and implementing things to make sure that everybody stays and feels safe.

Mr. Quintana asked if there were any other questions because he wanted everyone to feel comfortable in implementing and really standing behind the policy.

Jon Walker – Mr. Walker said he would redraft the policy based on the comments that were made in the meeting and bring it back to the Board at their next meeting. He said that the policy was the right thing to do. Mr. Quintana agreed.

Fredrick Quintana – Mr. Quintana agreed and thought that the comments and concerns that were addressed helped to guide the Board a little more closely to the intent of the policy and he looked forward to the next meeting when they could discuss and hopefully implement the policy. He announced the next meeting and reminded the Trustees of the upcoming Planning Retreat and asked that they attend if they were available. He said it was a great time to interact with the library team.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.

The next regular meeting of the Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees was scheduled to take place beginning at 5:30pm, Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the Greenhorn Valley Library, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City, CO.

Respectfully submitted by Rose Jubert, Secretary to the Board of Trustees